



Interuniversity Test of Academic English

ITACE FOR STUDENTS: ORAL TEST (sample)

Task 2: Argumentation (5 minutes)

Prepare to talk coherently about ONE of these two topics for about five minutes. Briefly explain the statement and give your own opinion. Try to come up with various arguments or specific examples to support your point of view.

Positive discrimination

Positive discrimination means that members of minority groups are given priority when they apply to university or for a job. This can be done by implementing racial or gender quotas. Supporters of this practice see it as a way of compensating for the injustices these minorities have faced in the past. They also consider it an effective method to address the discrimination these minority groups still encounter. Opponents, however, argue that positive discrimination puts members of the majority at an unfair disadvantage. How would you position yourself in this debate? In which circumstances do you think positive discrimination is acceptable?

Standardised tests

The Belgian educational system does not make use of national tests identical for all institutions, such as the French Baccalauréat or the British GCSE examination. Standardised tests are often considered to be a fair and objective method to measure a student's ability. However, some say that they make the curriculum more limited and that teachers are more likely to drill students only on what will be tested. Moreover, too much focus on testing might make a country less likely to produce innovators and critical thinkers. Do you think standardised tests are beneficial to the educational system?